

Y DDRAIG GOCH 57

60p GORFENNAF 91

Animo imperabit sapiens, stultus serviet.



The annual Inter-Zine Mincing Competition at ManorCon was always popular among a certain type of editor, and for weeks beforehand they could be seen hard at work practising for the hard fought contest.

Y Ddraig Goch is an amateur postal gaming zine produced by Iain Bowen of 5 Wigginton Terrace, York. It costs 60p per issue in the EEC and 90p per issue elsewhere in the world. It is only available to persons over the age of 18 years.

EDITORIAL

Video meliora proboque, deteriora sequor

I am currently very annoyed with one person as are the rest of the housewretches here at 5 Wigginton Terrace. This person, no names, no packdrill, tried to ring in a set of orders on Saturday evening. I was not in, he said to a housewretch that he would ring back on Sunday. Well, he did and he didn't. He actually rang back on Monday, only just Monday, mind you all of 00.05 hours.

I was, to say the least, soundly asleep as were two other people in the house who were also woken up by the call. The person who took the call was slightly dischuffed as well. And I, of course, caught the whinges and the bollockings. As did the person concerned when he rang back on Monday night and, no, his orders were not accepted.

So, to reiterate, there are telephone guidelines for times on the back of the zine. 11pm represents to within half an hour of my usual bedtime, therefore I can be a little teensy bit upset when the 'phone goes after 11pm. Now I can understand those on radically different time-zones having difficulty ringing within the weekday deadlines. So if you have an order change and you are from the USA, try any time on the Sunday after the deadline, you have an excuse. Others do not and anyone else ringing up with orders after 11pm will also find them not accepted, deadline or not. Any repeat offences will lead to expulsion from the zine.

But enough of this whingeing, Bowen. They don't want to know about your domestic problems. But still on the subject of phones, note a nice sniny new work number on the back page. This is a direct dial number and means that you don't have to deal with switchboard and therefore I feel I can publish it for general usage. However, note the following, I am usually found in meetings or away from my desk for most of the day. After 4pm, however, you stand a damn good chance of getting me save on a Monday when I usually leave at 4.30-4.45 to go shopping. Don't bother leaving messages with anyone else who answers the phone, I will not ring people back from work, although I may ring people back that evening from home. I tend to leave work about 6pm and the hours of 6pm-7pm are sacrosanct and 'phone callers will get short thrift from me. Oh yes, and if I'm busy, then you won't get much out of me at work. Use with discretion.

And finally Esther, I'm feeling much better from taking that break from the hobby in general. Although it wasn't much of a break between MfG reviews and bleedin' novice enquiries and the ManorCon Who's Who.... Anyway, I'm back in the saddle, please note the World Dip Con questionnaire and please, please feel free to reprint it, also note the Pimley Award announcement and this issue's shorter deadline. Please get your orders in on time to save me chewing the carpet on deadline day and don't forget ManorCon because I will be there doing my bit as Assistant Tournament Director and Tannoy Operative for Mr Sullivan. Walkerdine's is a Pils, Pete's is a Pint and mine, I'm ashamed to say, is a Gin and Slimline Tonic.

Life, Liberty and Peace

A handwritten signature, possibly 'L', followed by the initials 'XX'.

To err is to be human, to forgive is too divine !

Well, this makes a pleasant change ! A day off work in lieu of services rendered over the past three days. A large pot of tea, a tube of delectable Half coated Lemon Cookies and the Test match on TV. I was going to watch Worcs vs Yorks at Headingley but it looks like a draw and bugger me backwards if I haven't left the 'Bold' function on. Oh well, carbon ribbons are only £7 each, sniffle, sniffle.

Quite a lot of hobby affairs this letter-coumm but first an interesting idea from Shaun Derrick.

Shaun Derrick, Coventry : Whilst I am in Canada, I am going to try and get all U.S. and Canadian convention organisers to send me details of their cons. Furthermore I will probably met up with some of the Australian fraternity and try to extract info' on WorldDipCon III.

All in all, as I can travel the world cheaply and get to these cons, my aim is to publish an "Inetrnational Convention" zine periodically. Globetrotter is aiming to do that but fails to give pertinent information. I will contact James and if he wants to hand over the running of Globetrotter to me, particulary as he isn't going to DipCon XXIV. My aim is to publish details on as many international Diplomacy or General Games cons as

Whoops, left out the possible at the end there. Well, I think that it is a good idea in general and not one that as far as I am concerned infringes on any hobby service. After all, I run the International Subscription Exchange which is a mechanism for getting money across the Atlantic for people to sub to zines. Now, I've transferred the odd Con Fee (albeit with a certain amount of worry) but other than that my interest is in attending and for some one like Shaun who is a) willing to do the job b) attends international cons and c) is a travel agent seems only sensible. Start the zine, Shaun, although my blessing isn't worth that much. Shaun's address is 313 Woodway Lane, Walsgrave, Coventry. CV2 2AF.

Now for other hobby matters

That Jones Creature, Ilford : Onto the hobby, I assume I'm in a reasonably sized minority who only play games through the post and at conventions. David Hood may disagree with the latter but fuck him (No thanks Den, not my type). Some may say I don't do the former but just prat around and so fuck them too, but I ain't got the energy at the moment. Anyway, I'll get back to the point, as I have interests outside the hobby, music, alcohol, football for example, I would not be bored dropping out. As you will no doubt agree, I'm highly unlikely to have a family (And the world is very glad of this Den) I will not have responsibilities that will tie me down elsewhere. How many other people can you say this for ? Will we contin ue to recruit enough to replace the vanished ?

OK, until Diplomacy stops being published, we'll be alright, but as everyone assumes people will enter the hobby, things will only be worried about after that.

Advertising in professional games mags, shops etc. OK, I don't see the former, I hardly ever enter the latter. Still that does not stop me observing that there are an awful lot of commercial PBM games, who need new players to survive. Obviously they are in a better position to advertise in these places, well magazines, and keep them going. To be a cynic for a minute, they could say 'Mention fanzines who run games cheaper than we do and we won't advertise in your publication....

Well, I still think that we should at least try some of these sources, I think that there is a vast wealth of difference between postal PBM games and most 'hobby' games. The only ones approaching the complexity of PBM are things like SuperBowl and Empires (quiet, down there in Bristol). Whilst the game box flyer does a good job, there are plenty of other games players out there who would be interested in the hobby.

Denis still : Next trading, if this dies out as zines become more separate, then hobby news will, what about ManorCon, MidCon and BayCon. I suspect that one of these would suffer for it, and I know which one I'd place a fiver on.

So do I, the cons are an integral part of the hobby and two of them don't really seem to try to put anything back into it. Even ManorCon only has the stats levies etc but there again most ManorCon organisers are active in other hobby ways.

John Marsden, Strood : On the basis of 14 years experience, I would say that we have a

John Marsden, Strood : On the basis of 14 years experience, I would say that we have a situation that is a continuation of long-running trends. Once upon a time, postal Diplomacy was a small hobby, and everyone knew nearly everyone else. Conventions were small and cosy, and there was plenty of postal gossip because nearly everyone had heard of those involved, and newcomers could be assimilated easily.

However, those of use who wanted the hobby to grow had our way, and it did; a side-effect of relative success is less closeness. The hobby has become more split up and specialised, and less personal. Hence the lack of gossip. I don't see any real lack of hobby news, though. I still find plenty to print, although I have never publicised hobby meets, mainly because the dates are usually past before I can get into print.

Yes, I agree in part but. Having come into the hobby during the second golden age of the 83-85 period when the hobby was probably at its numerical peak, I was aware of a sense of community and information exchange that just doesn't seem there now. Perhaps it was the influence of a group of excellent editors at the time and the fact that trading hadn't died. This isn't there now, however, now the main-stream zine community has shrunk to perhaps 20 zines (with about 30 more zine, flyers and zinelets on the fringes) there appears to be a revival of such a spirit.

John again : The hobby has always been carried along on the enthusiasm of a relatively small number of people, who are now getting towards middle-age (but, John, John I'm only 26 and I only feel well between 18 and 20 depending on circs) . What is regrettable is that there are so few of the younger generation who are as enthusiastic, as Mark is. There's not much that can be done about this - it will either happen or not. The decline in trading is related though; until 10 years ago it was almost the duty of an editor to trade widely, and having done so we wrote letters to each other and reacted to each other's editorials. The gradual decline of trading was bound to lead to fractionalisation, and so it has proved. Indeed, it feels at times as though only the Zine Poll holds the hobby together.

As a further thought, generated by comments by Derek Wilson. It may be that the decline in trading is related to the change in production methods and the cost of zines. My trades cost me about £130 a year, which I regard as my hobby; some zines are more expensive than Ode. However, I really think that all zines should trade with the listings zine editor and the statistician - but how can they insist ?

I lose about £220 a year on trades, counting all copies @ 80p, but how much do I get back in zines. Sure, if I wasn't an editor I'd probably only sub to ASFO, GH, NERTZ, Ode, CMag, De Excidio, Dolchtoss, U-Bend and The Mouth of Sauron in the UK. Perelandra, Carolina Command and Commentary and Heroes of Olympus in the US and Northern Flame in Canada. That's not to say that I don't like the other zines that I see but that I trade for other reasons as well as enjoyment. But, I digress, trading is extremely important to the hobby as it keeps us together. What John explains in his first paragraph is called fannishness and it is what makes this hobby worthwhile for many, many people. Every time I hear of another private circulation, one game flyer from an exSpringboarder and there have been three or four to my knowledge so far, I despair slightly.

I also feel that the more work-based culture amongst the young these days, stops the level of enthusiasm for editing or getting deeply involved in the hobby. But the new generation are coming through John, but slowly and at a different level and pace. I disagree that the zine-listings zine should always trade, I never did and to be honest, it never hurt the zine. If a non-editor took the rôle, then I'd agree.

If there is one thing that gives me hope in the hobby, it has been the great success of Harry Bond's U-Bend, I just hope that it lives up to its promise. If there is one thing that makes me worry, it is that no real effort is being made outside the game box flyers on recruitment. If one thing offers stability, it is that all the hobby services save the RR ratings appear to have put themselves on a new, active footing. If there is one thing that makes me worry, it is the unrelenting unfannishness and single-mindedness of Springboard.

So, what do I want out of the next two hobby years. i) I want 5-6 new, fannish zines each with their own outlook ii) I want the 'fringe' hobby services brought back into the public eye iii) I want the excellent service performed to novices by Danny & Kath Collman (plus cohorts) to try to represent the needs of the hobby as well as the needs of the novice iv) After this is done, I want the biggest, bestest recruitment drive v) I want World Dip Con concept sorted out at World Dip Con IV at ManorCon '94.

David Hood, Hickory NC : You seem to say that there would not be capacity in British zines to handle lots of novices. In the US, the opposite is likely true. We have too many zines and too many openings for the trickle of newcomers. I think that the biggest thing for us to do is give out zines/flyers at Cons, and organize Dip events around the country. We certainly have nothing approaching the ManorCon Dip event.

This is just an impression of mine about capacity. As it happens, what happens in the UK is as follows. The majority of novices are filtered through a Dip zine called Springboard run by Danny & Kath Collman. Springboard starts about 1 game a month mainly generated via the game box flyer. However, the zine runs at close to capacity all the time and therefore any upsurge would have to be catered for in another manor. Now most zines I see don't really seem to have that much more capacity. I could be wrong but that's my humble opinion. Zines, flyers, Dip events that's the way to do it. Mind you, ManorCon has gotten so big, to use one of your usages, and is going to move to larger hall on the same site soon !

A note to feud fans. I am not feuding with Danny & Kath Collman. I personally think that as an introduction to postal Diplomacy Danny does an excellent job, however, as an introduction to the hobby, I think it doesn't do such a good job. I normally wouldn't interfere in this but Springboard is not just another zine, it is the heart of the hobby.

Chris Davis, Durham : On your 'What if Christianity ...' article, I found your chain of logic convincing as far as it goes, but I think that there are a couple of flaws in it. Firstly, you dismiss the importance of Constantine too easily. The deathbed baptism was normal practice for Christian emperors long after his reign, being based on an attempt to reconcile the necessity of committing sins in order to wield the Imperial power, with a desire to be fully absolved after death. The significance of the 'In hoc signis vincit..' lies not in its truth or otherwise but in its existence. Its first appearances date not from the early part of Constantine's reign, but much closer to its end, and seem to have originated with the Emperor himself. This indicates a desire on Constantine's part to backdate his Christian heritage which he had come to later in his life to his assumption of the purple and to associate his reign with his religion.

In some ways the article misses the aim it sets itself at the outset, that is to examine the effects that the non-existence of it would have had on the European 'culture' and 'civilisation'. The article covers how Christianity came to have its impact, not why. I would suggest that Christianity, although in later centuries a mass religion, only achieves this status through the conscious decision and actions of the rulers/ruling classes, and in most areas does probably does not expand much beyond this group before say the eleventh century. Therefore we need to examine what it was that appealed to these groups about the Christian religion. The most obvious was the authority given to rulers as the representatives of God on Earth. This links in with the implicit Christian duty to obey one's overlords, thus Christianity upheld the status quo. As it developed, the Church also enabled rulers to extend their authority. The network of bishoprics could be mirrored by civil authority or used to provide it. Further the church provided literate, intelligent individuals for the staffing of civil administrations.

The general attribution of the appearance of the labarum and the angelic vision was at the Milvian Bridge, which could hardly be described as late in Constantine's reign. I would also dispute the confirmed nature of his religion. Agreed he interfered at Nicaea, but that was more in recognition of the rôle of Christianity as a major religion in the Empire. Certainly, his rulings and speeches show an unusual lack of understanding to many theological matters of basic import. Also doctrine of 'imperator et sacerdos' was only a following of Imperial doctrine. Also for several emperors after Constantine the rôle of Pontifex Maximus was continued surely showing, at a time of simple Christian piety, that the religion was as little ingrained in the Imperial family as it was in the Roman nobility and senatorial classes.

Your second paragraph is partly correct, the article did fail to address what it aimed to do, but I feel that is more due to the scope of it. In the end I had to settle for trying to find the crux point. Christianity was a religion of the Roman middle class with the old paganism being prevalent in the senate until the fall of Rome and indeed afterwards until the time of the Exarches. The rest of your paragraph refers to a period beyond that of Late Antiquity and if we were talking about the eleventh century, I would discuss it,

we aren't, so I won't.

Per pro, deathbed baptism. I had forgotten about the fact that the Infamous Benediction of the Sword (a general absolution against malicide) was a 10th century addition.

Chris Davis : Finally, I would dispute that Islam would have inherited Europe if Christianity had not existed. Since Islam is in its roots no more than a Christian heresy, the one could not have existed without the other. Probably, the Arab expansion would still have occurred, since an individual such as Mohammed would have still had some impact on history, but it might either have been less religiously motivated, or the religion arising in the Arabian peninsula at this time might well have owed more to the Eastern Cults and have been entirely different in its attitude to Islam as we know it to have been.

I'm afraid to say Chris, that that is complete bollocks. Now you know as well as I do that the main influence on Islam (as on Christianity) is Judaism. Agreed Isa (Jesus) plays a part in Islam, but the religion is not seriously changed by it. As for a non-religious Arab conquest, well, there never really was an Arab conquest. I suggest a quick skim through Philip K. Hitti's History of the Arabs, a rewarding book which even manages to explain Shia and Druze successfully. There were, for those who won't read this book, very few Arabs after the first Arabic wave. The Arab conquests were the Islamic conquests
Okay, accents, saith he, trying not to find any sort of link.

David Hood : I find all discussions of accents fascinating. As you might expect, I fancy myself somewhat of an expert in Southern accents in the US. You know, the fact that in the North Carolina Piedmont region "R" is pronounced hard, but soft in the South Carolina coastal region. The use of Y'all throughout the South and Y'uns in the Mountains, both as a form of you, plural.

Do you know how much you sound like Professor Henry Higgins from "My Fair Lady" when you talk about English/British accents ? As I'm sure you think most Americans in the South sound the same, I have trouble distinguishing most Brits. I mean, Scots and Welsh sound significantly different (and Denis Jones is off in a linguistical world of his own in my opinion) but otherwise I am as yet uneducated on the differences in accent. Of course, at least I can tell an Aussie from a Brit - most Americans have no clue. They likely think Mel Gibson is British....

You are wrong, I can pin down a few Southern accent. My university had an exchange programme with, I think the University of Alabama, and that provided a variety of Deep South accents. However, the differences aren't as major as in Britain. The main British accents are generic Southern (near RP), generic London, West Country, South Wales, generic Midlands, Geordie, industrial Yorkshire, Lancs, Liverpool, Glaswegian, Lowland Scots and highland Scots. These are the ones recognised in most linguistic surveys. But this country has some strange things such as the prevalence of Liverpool intonations by Welsh-Speakers when speaking English. But what really interests me isn't accents but dialectical survivals, such as the Middle English elements in Black Country, or retention of regularity in the verb 'to be' in the West Country (which is a Saxon trait). The same goes for Appalachia and rural New England where a lot of archaisms survive such as his'n and her'n or the one you mentioned Y'uns. Denis isn't in a world of his own, there are about 3 million people in our capital city who enunciate like that and about another million with an even stronger accent. What it is, is that it is such a radical divergence from your soundings of consonants that it makes it hard to understand. My new manager-but-one is from N'Awlins and his accent is rather tasty.

The Ubiquitous Bond, Stoke : Of course, the hobby is accentless -- it's devoid of most of the more divisive personal qualities. Suppose that you get a subber, J.J. Tedious, the type who never NMR's, always stays in credit, but next to never writes a letter to the zine. How do you know what age, or colour, or gender they are ? Unless heesh (y'ch a f:i)chooses to reveal it, you've know way of knowing. Zines are great social levellers.

Which is a shame, I like to know my subbers and traders on a personal level. What they do, where they work, I really like to have a face to pin to the name, I'd hate this thing to become impersonal.

Well, I suppose that we'd better move on to other subjects , otherwise people are going to think that I'm becoming wholesome !

Brian Haunton, Upminster : Something about which I meant to write sometime ago : homosexuality and psychological treatments of it. I believe that the current, rather uncontroversial theory is that every person has both hetero- and homosexual phases to their personality ('phase' in the thermodynamic sense, rather than 'it's a phase (s)he's going through'.) So anyone will exhibit homosexual behaviour, in its widest sense : all those buddy movies ! (O Law, those) Similarly, everyone has 'masculine' and 'feminine' phases, although our culture is not keen on men displaying their feminine phase. (Blah, blah patriarchy, blah blah, phallocentric).

Blah, Blah indeed, Brian. But I'm with you so far on phases as apropos thermodynamics, I think, it has been 6 years though.

Brian still : To go off at a slight tangent or two : does the noun 'gay' apply to both men and women and if so, is there a male equivalent of 'lesbian' ? I'm a little worried about this having recently read Douglas Hofstadter's essays on the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis in 'Metamagical Themas'.

Well, to start with 'gay' belonged to men, then it came to mean men and women, so most things were called 'gaysoc' etc. Then the monstrous regiment of liberals got hold of it and it became 'gay men and lesbians', the current vogue is 'gay men, lesbians and bisexuals'. I await an attack of the politically correct soon, when we will become 'perkin of same-sex sexuality' and 'temporarily other-sex sexuality perkin' :-(. By the way, any flaming PC liberals out there who think that person is sexist should see the Dominus after class. As for your second query, there isn't really a direct comparison to Lesbian, but both 'invert' and 'Uranian' had a certain vogue around the start of the century.

Brian coninuat : Secondly, I think that we are going to see an increase in tolerance, or at least the depiction of designer lesbianism : someone at work was talking about a 'hot lesbian scene' in 'Capital City' recently, although one of the characters may have been holidaying in the Greek Islands, plus the Jeanette and Vita Sackville-West series on TV and Andy Garcia's lesbian partner in 'Internal Affairs'. Since American social trends tend to be ahead of ours, expect one of the major women charcters in a liberal, upmarket, American series like 'L.A. Law' or 'Thirtysomething' to be gay. I was a bit irritated that the TV version of 'After Henry' removed all references to Russell's being gay, so I do not think it likely that British TV will initiate a series, rather than a literary adaptation, where a major character is explicitly gay.

You don't remember 'Agony' then ? Errm, all this discussion of televisual trends doesn't mean much to me, like I don't own a set and rarely watch the communal one here at 5 Wigginton Terrace. But lesbians have always been more socially acceptable than faggots, mainly because that a lot of heterosexual men get their rocks off on the idea. Also due to the nature of relationship forming, women are rarely seen as a sexual threat to men, strong minded heterosexual women who actively seek sexual partners are treated generally with a combination of fear and wonderment. So if dykes are 'designer' (i.e. fit in with accepted heterosexual standards of beauty) then its OK cause the guys would like to watch, if they aren't then 'they were too ugly to get a man'. See Florence King's article on this in 'Reflections in a Jaundiced Eye'.

And now a new hobby service

You know who, Ilford : Denis Jones of 75 Kingston Road, Ilford, Essex. IG1 1PB is now running Hobby History Guide Tours. The first off is the RJW tour. For the price of a few beers, he will show you where RJW was born (only 5 minutes from Denis' house), where he spent his teens, where his parents greengrocers was, Essex's cricket ground in Ilford, where RJW bought his first pint, where he lost his virginity and the police cells where he spent many a night. Souvenirs are also for sale after the tour.

Even allowing for artistic license, I think he's serious

HOBBISLEAZE

The 1991 Les Pimley Award

Nominations are hereby invited for the 1991 Les Pimley Award for service to the hobby. Nominations should be received by the 1st of September 1991 by myself. The five consenting candidates with the most nominations will go through to a public voting procedure that will be done with the Zine Poll. Voting will be via Alternative Vote with a No Award option. All pettifogging restrictions on who is eligible are hereby dropped.

Announcement

For my sins, I am one of the more prominent British editors and at least once a week people write to me requesting some hobby information. Now at the risk of being rude, I'd like to point out that whilst I'm usually willing to help, I don't spend all my time on the hobby. Replies, especially for things that are not at hand or trivial or require unusual postage can be very slow.

Conventions

Last call for ManorCon '91, at High Hall, Birmingham. The hobby's biggest diplomacy tournament and masses of other games including variants, 18xx, Bridge, General Games, 5 a side Association Football, Croquet. 19th-21st of July, contact Richard Walkerdine, 13 Offley Road, Hitchin, Herts for details.

Midcon is to be held at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham on the 1st to the 3rd of November 1991, this is the second largest British convention and held in one of Birmingham's better hotels. It features the National Diplomacy Championship, plenty of general gaming and the dreaded MidCon quiz. I shall be there as I happen to be in the area the previous week. Contact Brian Williams, 75 Rhyddings Lane, Millfield Estate, West Bromwich. West Midlands.

All German readers are hereby warned that I am planning a descent on the Essen Games Fair!

World Dip Con III is to be held in Canberra, Australia from 25-27 January 1992. This will be a large international event with players expected from all over the world, so its probably a good idea if you were ever thinking of taking that holiday in Australia to consider going. Other details are sketchy but full details on transport, accomodation, organisation etc can be gained from their British Contact : Mike Gibson, 1/98 Great Titchfield Street, LONDON. W1P 7AG.

Zines

Sources in the Bristol region inform me that Paul Norris is planning to start a zine at ManorCon. Other sources in the Northallerton area inform me that Vienna has been relaunched as an irregular chat zine. Well, I haven't received one but, I'll endeavour to report back on this.

I am given to understand that Mission from God will be available at ManorCon as produced by its new custodians. My hand will not entirely be absent as I've just completed a huge swathe of reviews

(about 20 zines) including what I suspect will be most of the international section. All persons who have contacted me with zines and subscriptions during the interregnum have had their details passed onto Madi and her pet garden gnome with the Atari. Enquires to the capable Madi Smith at 44 Lychett Way, Nythe, Swindon, nr Dis, Wilts.

I have just received a flyer announcing a new zine from Duncan Proffitt. The zine is to be entitled Garbage In, Garbage Out. Duncan intends the zine to be 5 wkly, and to run Dip, Sopwith, Hol's der Geier, Maneater and Fictionary Dictionary. He also wants a letter column. It will cost £1 per issue. Duncan is one of the more noticable Springboard subscribers who has been making a mark for himself in several lettercolumns. I think that his ambitions are set a little high on the games running front and that the cost is rather high, but we have yet to see the product. He promises also not to publish deeply offensive material or swearwords. The address is 33 Barnes Street, Clayton Le Moors, Accrington, Lancashire. BB5 5PF.

Services

Wrangles over the Sopwith stats appear to have been sorted out between Tom Tweedy and Dave Tant. Although the bulletin was produced by one of these protagonists. Nice to see yet another hobby service running well again. Question is will the RR numbers and ratings service ever work again?

On a secondary point The Novice Editors Package, it appears that the wretch Collman has printed my address for this without, of course, checking any details with me. Well, we have a problem here. The NEP is ,kiddies, sitting on a stiffie in my draw, it is written in a Text Enriched file from Word*Star 3.0, my current wordpro is Ami Professional, it doesn't support this old form of Word*Star file. Also, in one of those vain attempts to hack the diskette using Norton, I noticed horrible things in it indicating corruption. There are some printed masters, somewhere in Stourbridge, I emphasise the somewhere heavily.

I personally think that this is no loss, the thing was over 4 years old and reflected a different hobby to the one we have today, to be truly useful in the same way that the old one was it would need a complete re-write not just adjustment. I do not have the time to do this anymore, volunteers will be accepted with open arms.

Hobbymeets

North Yorks The next two will be 14th July and the 8th September at the Tap & Spile, Monk Bar, York. We meet at 12 noon for lunch, proceeding back to my house for a game of something at about 2pm, all welcome.

Bristol held regularly, try contacting Paul Norris, Top Flat, 53 Ashley Hill, Montpelier, Bristol for further details.

Birmingham there are attempts to restart a hobbymeet in Birmingham by Paul S Richards. Paul's address is 12 St James Close, Pelsall, Walsall, West Midlands.

London : Denis Jones is trying to restart the London Hobbymeet and planning the first for September/October. Anyone interested in this should contact Denis at 75 Kingston Road, Ilford, Essex.

The most dreaded sub-zine in fandom returns

4 Pages of Bisexual Crap

As usual, we wish to point out to our readership that this subzine, may under circumstances that are without comprehension to the editor, be offensive to the reader. We therefore urge those of this disposition to read no further, that is your right, you have that freedom.

Gay Men's Litter

In the summer, a young editor's fancies turn to thoughts of cricket, romantic literature and long cool glasses of Pimm's. Whilst the modern novel is a good book for the dreary days of winter, the hopes that sunlight brings usual bring out that mushy side of me and I like to read, whilst not the Mills and Boon books that infest York library, the odd simple love story.

Now whilst my passions can usually be slaked with a couple of Mary Wesley's, *Gone with the Wind* and the odd little gem like *Eva Luna*, there is a side of me that seeks stories of love and affection between members of the same sex. Gay or lesbian, I'm not fussy and the great bisexual love story lies on my floor with only three chapters written.

Now there is something still remaining of my old Politically Correct self that stop's me buying the modern day feminist fiction, so I can't do an axe job on that subject, but for those who want to read some, may I suggest the purchase of "Reflections in a Jaundiced Eye" by the admirable Florence King. I do, however, on at least three occasions a year by books about poufs by poufs, usually in the imprint of Gay Men's Press or their American cousins Alyson Publications. It is invariably a mistake and with the price of stuff by minority publishing house, a costly one. The £4.99 Penguin will be £6.99 or even £7.99 in GMP.

GMP is, in its own way, the product of the politically correct, it seeks to publish books by gay men for the gay community. By doing this, it does in part contribute to the horrors of ghettoisation that are occurring in the gay community. My opinions on this are fairly well known and loathed by priggish idiots everywhere, but to repeat them, I stick to Terence's maxim "Nothing that is human, is alien to me". Somethings like Kylie Minogue and Greg Bear are pretty close, but I try.

Of course, some mithering soul or other is saying unto him or herself that the moment "But he's supposed to be bisexual, and all we ever get in this column is stuff about being queer". Well folks, there is no Bisexual Human's Press and there are precious few bisexual characters outside of science fiction or fantasy. There is no real 'Great' Bisexual Novel but as I said above, I'm working on it. Anyway, y'all understand heterosexuality, even those of you who don't subscribe to it, so just sit back and read.

GMP produce non-fiction works, their books of photographs are, well, devoted to a narrow subject range. Some of their work is extremely useful and anyone in the UK who hasn't read their *Gay's and the Law* is hereby commended to it, pronto. It's rather PC and there's an awful lot of use of the O-Word and the D-word but the basic facts are there. But their main output is fiction, woeful fiction of the sort that shouldn't disgrace a proper bookshop like Waterstone's. A cold collation of mild pornography, nasty little Utopias, historical romances, "classics" and plain old love stories.

There is precious little for the bibliophile to get his teeth into, the book will run through a couple of relationships, before either accepting or rejecting monogamy. He will be moderately interesting stereotypically, a biker or a sailor and he probably used to like girls once. There will be the obligatory sex scene (usally dull), the almost certain scene of Discrimination and Opression and a sickly ending. This does not apply to "Gay Modern Classics" which were all written before 1960 and therefore frequently have unhappy endings, heroes who hate themselves and no sex

scene. However, how they got to be classics is usually a matter for conjecture, if not wild fantasy.

Some of these books, especially American ones can actually manage to work their way through a whole book without mentioning anything outside the gay ghetto, except a bit of O & D. Some have gone to downright plagiarism in an attempt to produce something readable. This is not to say that Gay Men are without talent at writing, considering the careers of Truman Capote, Oscar Wilde and Somerset Maugham make any such statement ridiculous. However, it is also silly to say that GMP produce nothing worth reading, I can recommend Tom Wakefield to anybody, but then Wakefield now writes for another publisher and his novels have climbed out of the ghetto and into real life.

Let's take a swift look at two typical "Gay" books. "Surprising myself" is by a American author Christopher Bram and is basically a love story, it has nice "non-scene" characters, supportive straights, the usual political points and somehow runs to 400 pages. It's trite, it's trashy and whilst it shows the odd hint of life when describing small town life, it fails to entertain nor be any different from say Lisa Alther's *Bedrock* which at least has the merit of diversity, characterisation and reality.

The second is "Unnatural Relations" by Mike Seabrook, it is a story about enduring teenage love through trials and tribulations. It features an extremely adult public schoolboy and the development of his relationship with another man. It shows the horrors of what happens when the law catches up with such liaisons (providing the obligatory O & P), some beastly parents, the Pauline conversion of the one character's family and a wee bit of philosophy. It's very English and moderately well written. I could have raved over it. Sadly, it is a modernised version of Simon Raven's *"Fielding Gray"*, a book that it even has the gall to mention within it's pages and a book to which it cannot hold a candle to.

So what is wrong with this growing, nay, burgeoning field of literature. Is it just GMP ? Or is it some other reason ?

My theory is that it is the existence of GMP that causes it. Lord knows, people have been writing about poufs and pervs since time immemorial. However, recent moral climates (mainly caused by Saul of Tarsus fl 45 AD) led to books that expressed same-sex realtions generally being either in deep coded writing *"Dorian Gray"*, or showing the deep guilt kick *"Querelle of Brest"* or being out to sell by shock *"Last Exit to Brooklyn"*.

Into the post Stonewall world comes the idea of a gay community and amongst the plethora of Seventies help groups come GMP. Then arrives a standard vicious circle, GMP's books are rarely reviewed outside the gay press, therefore the books are aimed at the reviewers in the gay press - who appear, at least in the UK, to have disced their braincells loose in the Seventies. This only encourages the general style of the average GMP book, the O & D, the sex scenes, the straight boys turning queer and other general politically correct behaviour patterns.

I posit that GMP like the gay community has to radically change its thinking and its policy in order to achieve its objectives. Whilst both were once good ideas and are still necessary to some degree, they stand the increaing chance that their continous polarization and self-sterotyping will reduce their effectiveness.

It is perfectly possible for books with gay characters to be published now by mainstream presses. Ye Gods, you can't stop tripping over them in the modern novel section these days. Penguin produced *"The Swimming Pool Library"* in 1989, Corgi/Black Swan have made a mint out of Maupuin and there have been plenty of others.

Even more encouragingly, books now appear on our shelves with characters who just 'happen' to be gay it them, not to make some moral point like Satre's Daniel, nor to hand out a stereotype like Amis pere, nor for token reasons. But because they fit in properly.

However, for the poor biblophile who still reads books by GMP, because they are "gay books by gay people", then I'm afraid the descent to a literary hell is easy.

GAY PRIDE - WHY I'M GOING

In two days, I shall get up at 6.30am, for the reason that I am going to London. I'm going to take part in a demonstration, that demonstration being the annual Gay Pride march through the streets of London.

This year, however, is different from other years as it is probably the first year that I've actually thought "why am I going to Pride?".

Considering that one of the most common comments in pubs after Pride is "We don't have a Straight Pride march", I suspect that it may be an interesting question to many other people as well. So I shall endeavour to answer it as best I can.

The first reason is social, there happen to be a number of people going to the Pride march, whom I know and like and in some cases have never met. I would like to meet them, this provides a rare opportunity to do so. I also stand a fair chance of bumping into one or more old acquaintances who I'd like to see and natter with.

The second reason is that it is at a suitable time, there is a very important lunch I have to attend on that day and also I'm running short of Russian Caravan Tea so it allows a trip to Fortnum & Mason's. It also happens to be the last Saturday of cheap train fares to London for 2 months as well.

Those are the easy ones, the final one is the philosophical and political desire to go and that is what troubled me. Therefore in that manner described by young Bond as my best Augustinian self-flagellation, I shall try to describe this.

I have slowly over the last few years been moving away from my original political philosophy of socialism to what could be described as either a right-wing anarchist or libertarian position. I spurn the Politically Correct and enjoy life as it comes to me, trying to ignore the shackles that are placed upon me by the State. Pride is full of the left-wing, the well-meaning and the politically correct who by trying to fight for what they call minorities frequently only muddy the waters of the pool.

I don't actually like the idea of the 'gay' community, nor do I accept that gay people are any iota different nor special from the rest of humanity. I may choose to find the antics of "QUEER NATION" amusing and I may well admire them for their bravery and forthrightness and I'll defend unto the death their right to say it, but it doesn't stop me thinking that in my opinion, they are wrong.

Let's face it, I'm not openly bisexual for political reasons, I'm open about it because, frankly, I like the maximum number of people to know that I'm available (and with a figure like mine, you need the maximum number of people to know!). Of course, if others gain from my actions in being out of the closet, then bully for them, if my writings on sexuality affect people to either be more open about their's or to have a better attitude to other people who have same-sex relationships, then that's great and I'm chuffed. But I'm carrying no political torch for it.

I do not think that exulting your sexuality on the street is a good thing, but I do not think that the gay community is a good thing either. However, I would place both in the category of a "necessary evil" at the present time.

There is, and I'm loath to mention it again but.., a large number of people in this country who feel that I should not be allowed to do as I wish in bed, in my privacy with a consenting partner. Further to that, the law of England places further pettifogging restrictions on my rights as an individual to have a sex life and not all of these apply to homosexual acts. I do not think that it is the right of the accursed state to interfere in such matters, nor is it the right of religious bodies to try to change the law on these things.

To me, whilst that state of affairs continues, there is a requirement for a gay 'community' to support people who are discriminated against by state and people. I don't like using the D-word, as it is frequently misused by people who seek to use it as a boo-word against their political opponents. The Gay Pride march is a

useful part of that communities actions. It represents to the people and the state that people who have same-sex relationships exists, are willing to gather in numbers and show that they exist, that they are not ashamed of their actions and that until the time that people accept them as being a normal part of society, they will be there.

In addition, to the many people growing up or grown up who feel that they are gay, lesbian or bisexual, it gives them hope, makes them realise that they are not the only ones and possibly starts them on the road to happiness.

Of course, much about the march is contraversial, many people are there who will be thought of as giving a 'negative image' by both the media and some of their peers. Undoubtedly, any transgressions to that hideous thing - public morality (may God preserve us from it) will be noted by the newspaper media.

Until the day comes that sexuality is irrelevant to the state and to the people, then there will be a need for a Gay Pride march and for articles like this. Until then, I shall march and I shall write on such things and I suspect that will be for a long time yet.

SO HOW ABOUT A PRIDE REPORT, THEN ?

Well, What is there to report. It was the biggest one yet, even the Met reported that there were 30,000 people on the march and another 10,000 at the park. We walked mainly through South Central London, amusing ourselves by waving at mystified American tourists, not a few of whom were seen to mouth "fags", funny, why were they wanting cigarettes. There was no real politicisation save for the sporadic attack of rent-a-trot. All in all, it was just a lot of people having a good time, the vast majority of them being ordinary sober citizens, why even Denis was sober. Of course, there were some drag queens and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and the odd Master with chained slave, but hell, they were doing no harm to any one.

At Kennington Park, there was the sort of crap you'd expect at a PC festival, ideologically correct entertainment, crap food, bad WC's, a wimmin-only area and a large market area. If only I'd had some money then I might just have been a few T-shirts to the good. Twinky count was not high, unfortunately and a few of us retreated to Central London for better food in the shape of a good Chinese meal, so Denis does have his uses apart from his encyclopaedic knowledge of London pubs. The New Moon off Shaftesbury Avenue.

On release there were several new gay mags (not porn, kiddies, can't sell that in the People's Republic of Lambeth), including the new Manchester one Varda which was awful and for comix fen Buddies which describes itself as a UK version of Gay Comix, well, apart from a passing knowledge of the Howard Strangroom strip having seen the preview in The Sodality, the rest of it left me cold. So not recommended, kiddies.

The most frightening thing about the whole thing was simple, not one mention in the gutter press, nor in the qualities. Not even the Manchester Communist. There are two possible reasons for this, either it wasn't that interesting (but the News of the Screws usually gives us a photo-feature) or, Paranoia City, it was deliberate censorship. After all, a big protest march through the Capital City is usually worth a byline after all it's news, isn't it.

Uplifted, elated, nah, I just had a good time with old and new friends and a pair of smelly, sore feet.

Typed to Beers, Steers and Queers by the Revolting Cocks .

Some time ago, news was announced that Larry Peery, an United States editor who has been in the hobby since its earliest days intended to start to publish a zine entitled World Diplomacy which was to aid and abet the international hobby in its growth. At that time, cynical little me called it "A journal of international Larry Peery", based in pars partem on Larry's career as editor of Diplomacy World the North American flagship zine.

I was, as usual, correct. The first issue of World Diplomacy is chockfully of international Larry Peery, or as Larry himself calls it Peeriblah. However, Peeriblah, whilst long-winded has at least the virtue of being something to read and to discuss: for this Larry is no lamb.

World Diplomacy is unashamedly aimed at "the hobby's movers and shakers" and spends much of its time discussing World DipCon, the international hobby and the game of Diplomacy. This issue gives Larry's account of his 25 years (and more) in the hobby, and whilst it is, as are all personal writings, coloured by Larry's experience and prejudices it is a fascinating read.

However, it is Larry's discussion of the World Dip Con concept that the zine has some real appeal, the World Dip Con idea is still doing its circumnavigation of the known Diplomacy world for the first time and there are still many things to be decided about it. Larry has used the first issue of WD to reopen otherwise stagnating discussions on the WDC idea.

The first thing that he has done is to give a list of 10 questions which he wants as many answers to as possible from all sorts of hobby people about how World Dip Con should be organised. The questions are below, if you don't feel you can answer them that's fine, if you do then you are welcome to send them to me and I will forward them to Larry. He'd like them camera ready, but I'd guess that as long as they were legible, he won't mind.

- 1) Should WDC have a formal, independent organization. If so, what kind of organization do you think is needed? If not, why not?
- 2) What kind of administrative organisation should WDC, as an on-going event, have? What should its responsibilities be?
- 3) What should the relationship be between the WDC and the various national hobbies?
- 4) How should the WDC be financed?
- 5) Who should be responsible for promoting the WDC?
- 6) What should the length of time be between each WDC event? How long should each event be?
- 7) What should be site selection process for WDC?
- 8) What should be the site rotation for WDC?
- 9) What events should comprise the WDC programme?
- 10) What should the tournament events scoring system be for a WDC?

These answers should either be sent to me, or direct to Larry Peery, c/o World Diplomacy, Box 620399, San Diego, California 92162, USA. Subscriptions to World Diplomacy are \$30 for 4 issues (send £18 IR£20 to me) so that I can forward this via the International Subscription Exchange. For those who cannot, do not wish to avail themselves of this, send funds in US\$. World Diplomacy is going to be worthwhile, at least for those interested in the WDC idea.

On a final, related note, an enquiry was made to the ManorCon committee about the possibility of funding a player to go to WDC III in Australia, I'm currently against this, mainly because I'd rather the hobby did it than ManorCon. However, Mark Nelson has come up with a wonderful idea that can raise money for Hobby Services in general and especially for an International fund. That is to hold an auction of hobby trivia to raise funds for hobby services and to ensure that not just the dozen or so Brits I expect to go to WDC V in the USA but also our Diplomacy champion(s) can go. Details probably

GAMES SECTION

Boethius(G51), Kingdoms of Outremer, CANCELLED

Sorry about this but recent changes at work probably mean that I really won't have time to run this. I will readvertise the waiting list after the CLM restructuring project finishes in January.

Lye(G54), Railway Rivals - CR, Round 0

You will all have/be receiving soon a paper copy of the Carolinas map. I will require companies, colours and start towns by the next deadline.

The players are TOM NASH, STEVE NICEWARNER, DONALD SPIVEY, ROBIN AP CYNAN and CHRIS PREIST & CARL -MAGNUS HODGSON.

The game will work on the principle that it will run to ordinary deadlines, but if the US players orders have not reached me by the deadline, I will hold it over.

Bizarre Love Triangle(G32), Chaos II(88 CW rh03), Pre Spring 1915

The GM is a bozo and an incompetant one. I should of informed you of these errors earlier but a combination of apathy, indolence and overwork caused me not to.

Errors : SELENA still owns Lon but not Edi; BER owns Edi but not Lon. DA MOB moved A(Apu)-Rom was one short for 6 centres and disbands A(Rom)

Orders are on file from BUDAPEST, COPIE & SELENA

Dentrassi(G47), Diplomacy(88DS), FINISHED

This is a two-way draw between Russia (Keir Hodgson) and Italy (David Briggs).

Alex, send me the bleedin chart before the Boardmen come to get me.

Alyn(G55), Snowball Fighting, Round 0

The players for this are JAMES THORPE(A6), TREVOR PEACOCK(I3), BRIAN HAUNTON(W9), DAVID HOOD(US), PETE GAUGHAN(S1) & ANDY BELL(C1) We are using the small arena printed in issue 52. Your start positions are in brackets by your name, you start with two snowballs and you may utilise a pseudonym

Colony(G42), Diplomacy(90B2), Spring 1904

Austria Griff Lewis, 13 Brandon Court, Lawrence Rd, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1PF
 F(ION) S It A(Tun) ; A(Apu)-Rom S by F(Nap) ; A(Bul)-Rum S by A(Bud) ;
 A(Vie)-Boh S by A(Tyr) ; A(Ven) S A(Tyr)

England Keith Pottage, 37 High St, South Hiendley, BARNSELY. S72 9AE
 A(Swe)-Fin ; F(SKA)-Swe ; F(HEL)-Den S by F(NTH) ;

France Justin Horrell, Sunny Bank, Stouthall Garage, Reynoldston, De Gŵyr, Swansea. SA3 1AN
 NME!
 A(Mar, Pic, Bur) F(TYS, ENC) all H

Germany Martin Freeman, 50 Prankerds Rd, Milborne Port, nr Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 5BX
 A(Boh)-Gal ; A(Bel)-Bur ; F(HEL)S by F(NTH) ;

Italy A(Tun) H in c.d

Russia Tim Weigand, Churchill College, CAMBRIDGE. CB3 0DS
F(Sev) S F(BLA) ; F(BLA) S A(Rum)* ; F(StP[nc])-BAR ; A(Nwy) H ; A(Mos)-
 Lvn ; A(Mun) H ; A(Ber)-Kie ;

Turkey Paul Norris, Top Flat, 53 Ashley Hill, Montpelier, BRISTOL, Avon. BS6 9BE
F(Con)-BLA S by F(Arm) ; A(Smy)-Ank ;

Retreats : A(Rum) dies nro !

Justinian Rhinotmetus : Of course that final German order should read F(HEL)-Den S by F(NTH) ;. Sorry .

Dedades(G50), Diplomacy(91BT), Autumn 1901

Ai nae, a Lepanto, a Lepanto has
 come, greatest of all Turkey-
 bane's since the ...

Austria David Briggs, 9 Parkinson Avenue, Scunthorpe, South Humberside.
A(Vie)-Gal ; F(Alb)-Gre ; A(Rum) * S Ita A(Tri)-Ser ;

England Keir Hodgson, 5 Headingley Avenue, LEEDS. LS6
 F(NWG)-BAR ; A(Yor)-Nwy C by F(NTH) ;

France David Rogerson, 26 Plumtre Way, Eastwood, NOTTINGHAM. NG16 3LL.
A(Pic)-Bel ; A(Spa) H ; F(MAD)-Por ;

Germany David Abbott, 46 Foxbourne Road, Balham, LONDON. SW12.
 A(Kie)-Hol ; A(Ruh)-Bel ; F(Den)-Swe ;

Italy Vick Hall, 49 Vartry Road, Stamford Hill. London. N15
 F(ION) S Aus F(Alb)-Gre ; A(Tri)-Ser ; A(Apu) H ;

Russia Mike MacLeod, 54 Vestry Road, Camberwell, LONDON. SE5 8NX
F(GB)-Swe ; A(War)-Gal ; F(Sev)-Rum S by A(Ukr) ;

Turkey Mark Winklemann, 26 Rocwood, Blackrock, Co Dublin. EIRE.
F(Ank)-BLA ; A(Bul)-Gre ; A(Con)-Bul ;

Retreat : A(Rum)-Bud

Adjustments for Winter 1901

A : Vie Bud Tri	+ Gre	4 +A(Tri)
E : Lon Edi Lpl	+ Nwy	4 +F(Lon)
F : Par Mar Bre	+ Spa Por	5 +F(Bre)A(Mar)
G : Ber Mun Kie	+ Den Hol	5 +A(Mun)F(Kie)
I : Rom Ven Nap	+ Ser	4 +F(Nap)
R : StP Mos War Sev	+ Rum	5 +F(Sev)
T : Con Smy Ank	+ Bul	4 +F(Smy)

Murder(G40), Downfall XIII(90BK ts??), Lotessé II 3019

It's stab-a-rama time has sleepy halflings are slaughtered by Pirates.
We have a new Dark Lord !

Dwarves Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, Nth Yorks. DL7 8NN
A(Nen)-GHa S by A(Shi) ; Dain L A(Anu)-Lor ; A(Eot)-EKH S by A(Esg) ;
A(RRu)-MoM ; 2A(NRh)-SRh ;

Elves ??
NMR! F(Fdn) , A(Fld) , A(FEr) , 5A(UdQ) ; A(Bro) ; A(EKH) all hold

Gandalf Justin Horrell, Sunny Bank, Stouthall Garage, Reynoldston, Swansea. SA3 1AN
NMR! Ar() ; Ga() ; Ra() ; Fe(Wil) * H ;

Gondor Dave Hicks, Flat 5B, 8 Dyfrig St, Pontcanna. CARDIFF. CF1 9LR.
Fa+2A+C(Osg)-SIt ; 2A(MTi)-Osg ;

Rohan Denis Jones, 75 Kingston Road, Ilford. Essex.
Thé+2C(Ano)-EEm-Wol ; A(Wes) S Thé+2C(Ano)-EEm ; 2a(DMa)-Udú S by A(NIt) ;
C(Dru)-Ene-Dun ;

Saruman Phil Lucas, 75 Trafalgar Street, GILLINGHAM. Kent ME7 4RU
2A(Rhu)-Iml ; A(Hol) H ; Sa+2A(EEm)-Wol ; A(Gap)-Ene ;

Umbar Paul Norris, Top Flat, 53 Ashley Hill, Montpelier, BRISTOL. Avon. BS6 9BE
A(SIt)-MMo ; 2A(SGo)-SIt + A(Pel)-SIt + A(Por)-SIt M : 4A(SIt) ; F(AND) H ;
A+C(Dag) D : A(Dag)-Wil ; C(Dag)-EMu-Wol ; F(EAN)-SBA ; F(NBA)-Lam ; F(SSE)-
F(SSE)-Dru ;

Retreats : Fe(Wil) dies nro!

UMBAR A(Wil) puts on the RING

Dw : Blu Ere Esg FEr Eot RRu Iro Crk	+Lor GHa SRh Shi	11 +A(Blu) 2A(Ere)
El : Kor Imi Em EKH Fld Hld Bre Shi Anu	+FEr UdQ	7 -2A(UdQ) gm
Ga : Nun		0 no change
Go : MTi Osg MMo SIt		+1 4 -C(SIt)
Mo : Bar Gun CDm		3 no change
Ro : HDe DHa Eas Ano EEm Udú Kor	+Dru	6 -A(DMa)
Sa : Ise Dun KDM Tha Hol Wol	+Iml	7 +A(Dun)
Um : Hrd Cit Hav Kha SGo Udú Nur DAm Pel SRh	+MMo Lam	+2 12 +A(Cit) +Naz(CDm)

Justinian Rhinotmetus : Now that was interesting and even more to the point things are going to be real fun for a turn or two now. Secret placements will be sent separately. Marcus is out of credit with no orders and has resigned from games in other zines, when I last spoke to him, he had serious personal problems. I am attempted to find a standby whose name will be written somewhere in the zine. OK.

Press

Kill Pointy Eared Scum !

A DWARVEN TAXI-DRIVER WRITES : Elves ? Don't talk to me about Elves, guv. Used to be able to do this run - to Esgaroth was it, squire ? - next to no time. All these bloomin' Elvish mini-cabs in the way now - just 'cause they're jealous that we all have to Do the Knowledge, right ? No looking things up in the Mirkwood A-Z for us, right ? They'll be trying to get us you use their poncy month names, next. String 'em up, it's the only language they understand. I 'ad that Cirdan in the back of my cab once ... (cont p 94,ed)

Justinian - Dwarven Taxi Driver : Shouldn't that be the Taur-e-Ndaedlos A-Z :-)

Yank : In England , an American. In the Northern states , a New Englander, in the South there is no such word. See Damnyankee. (Ambrose Bierce)

Elegia(G14), Aberration III(86EKca01), Autumn 1919 and End.

Byzantium F(SAf)-Waf ; F(Egy)-Eaf ; F(Alg) S Pol F(WMS)-Mor (nso) ; F(UTI) S F(Alg) ;
 F(MAL)-TYS S by F(Rom)* ; F(ADR) S A(Ven) ; F(Cir) H ; A(Tri)-Sah ; A(Umb) S
 A(VEn) ; A(Cro)-Aus ; A(Ser)-Cro ; A(Sze) S A(Bud) ; A(Bud) S A(Cro)-Aus ;
A(Rut)-Gal ; A(Rum)-Pod ; A(Pod)-War ; A(Ode)-Don ; A(Don)-Mus ; A(Ven) S
A(Ser)-Cro

Italy F(GOL) A(Est,Tol*,Tur,Ira) all H in civil disorder

Poland F(Mor)-IFN ; F(Gib)-Val ; F(WMS)-PLM ; F(SAO)-WMS ; F(MAO)-SAO ; F(BOB)-
 San ; F(Bre)-MAO ; A(Pie)-Ven ; A(Tus)-Rom ; A(Sch) S A(Tyr) ; A(Bav) S A(Tyr)
 A(Tyr) S A(Pie)-Ven ; A(Boh) S A(Aus) ; A(Aus) MS A(Gal) ; A(War) S A(Gal) ;
 A(Sil) S A(Gal) ; A(Mus) S A(Vol) ; A(Kaz) S A(Vol) ; A(Vol) S A(Mus) ; A(Nov)
 S A(Mus) ; A(Kar) S A(Mus) ; A(Lan)-Gas ; F(LIG) S A(Tus)-Rom ; A(San)-Tol ;
 A(Cat) S A(San)-Tol ;

Retreats : Why bother ! A(Tol) dies , A(Rom)-Apu

B : Ath Con Smy Bul Rom Ode Arm Ser Yal Cyr
 Zar Geo Sze Cai Jer Ven Dam Kie Bud All
 Tun Nap

22

I : Ira Prm ~~Yal~~ ~~Yal~~ ~~Rom~~ Tur

3

P : War Gda Bri Nov Mus Dij Hag Bav Rig Dub
 Alc Wsx Den Nwy Swe Edi Bar Hes Sax Boh
 San Lan Pie Aus Mar Por

+ Tol Val Rom 29 WINS !

Justinian Rhinotmetus : And it came to pass that the Poles dominated Europe and game end
 statements of brevity would be welcomed by the GM.

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country Proverbs 25:xxv

Hagley(G41), Railway Rivals - TX, Round 10

Justinian : Marcus has dropped out of the zine, his track may for the last two rounds
 be just used at half ordinary costs.

	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
SANDS	5	11	12					
TPRR	19	12			4	18	16	
RATTLE	+1	5		6	20			+1
CIA		2	4	7		4		21
CHUFFERS			14	16	+4	2	14	7
LATEX	+5			+1	+2	+6		+1

EARNINGS : TPRR 69 CHUFFERS 57 CIA 38 SANDS 38 RATTLETRAP 33 LATEX 15

Builds : SANDS : (X31)-Witchita ; (K45)-K46
 TPRR : (OKLAHOMA CITY)-Enid-K81 ; (V38)-W38
 CHUFF : (I38)-I33
 RATTLE: (C73)-C71-F69-F67

Final Scores : CHUFFERS 251, RATTLETRAP 209, CIA 208, LATEX 188 SANDS 153 TPRR 134

For R08und 11 (Enter up 5, Build up to 5 physical points)

Run 35 : Waco - Kansas	Run 36 : Laredo - Arizona
Run 37 : Houston - Texarkana	Run 38 : Raton - El Paso
Run 39 : Witchita Falls - Corpus Christi	Run 40 : Santa Fe - Oklahoma City
Run 41 : Port Arthur - Del Rio	Run 42 : Enid - Altus
Run 43 : San Antonio - Lufkin	

*To tell the world of Surrey's plight, of the children's tears and their parents fight
 Of their Wimpey homes and their plummeting price. Blyth Power - Paradise Sold*

Augeatur in nobis, quaesumus, Domine, tua virtutis operatio.

Passover(G39), Diplomacy(89EM), Autumn 1907

Austria F(ADR) A(Bud*, Tri*, Tyr, Vie) all H in civil disorder

England Harry Bond, 11 Rutland Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. COA
F(Nwy)-Swe S by A(Den) ; F(NAf)-Tun ; F(WMS)-TYS ; A(Par)-Bur ; A(StP) H ;
F(Spa[sc]) H ; A(Pic)-Bel S by F(NTH) & F(ENC) ;

Germany James Nelson, 112 Huntley Avenue, Spondon, DERBY. DE2 7DU
F(BAL)-GOB ; A(Sil)-Mun ; A(Pru)-War ; A(Mun)-Bur ; A(Bel*) MS A(Hol) ;

Italy Andy Bell, 71 Angle Street, MIDDLESBROUGH. Cleveland. TS4 2HZ

F(Mar) H ; A(Apu) S A(Ven) ; A(Ven) S Tur A(Ser)-Tri

Turkey John Breakwell, 62 Shackleton Way, Woodley, Reading. RG5 4UT

A(Mos)-Lvn S by A(War) ; A(Rum)-Bud S by A(Gal) ; A(Ger)-Ser ; A(Ser)-Tri
S by A(Alb) ; F(EMS)-ION S by F(AEG) ;

Retreats : A(Bud) & A(Tri) die nro, A(Bel)-Ruh

Adjustments for Winter 1907

A : ~~Bud Tyr~~ Vie ~~Yen War~~

E : Lon Lpl Edi Bel Nwy StP Por Par Bre Spa

+Swe Tun Den

1 -F(ADR)A(Tyr)

13 +F(Lon,Lpl)

A(Edi)

G : Kie Ber Mun ~~Swe Den Mar~~ Hol

4 -A(sil,Pru)

I : Rom Nap ~~Tun~~

+ Ven Mar

4 +F(Rom)

T : Con Ank Smy Ser Mos Rum Bul Gre Sev

+War Tri Bud

12 +A(Con,Ank)

A F(Smy)

Press : England - Germany : Hold still and be stabbed !

Et tremens, ac stepens, dixit : Domine, quid me vis facere ?

Jorvik(G44), Railway Rivals - LU, Round 7

NMR's STROVER & MIND both fined 10pts

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SANDS	1	20			6		+4		
PAEDO.	16		20		13		7		
BAKERLOO			10	30			6	30	
MIND THE	4	10			8		4		
STROVER	9				+3		9		

Earnings : BAKERLOO 76 PAEDOPHIL 56 SANDS 31 MIN THE GAP 16 STROVER EATS BABIES 11

Builds

PAEDOPHILE (X16)-Z15-Z14-B62-B61-West Hampstead ; (Z15)-Swiss Cottage ; (Maida Vale)-
W12-Kiburn Park 11.5 +1(Sa)+2(B) = 14.5 [[curse you, Walkerdine]]

SANDS (M34)-M35-N36-N38-M38-M39-Borough ; (Q29)-Charing X ; (Bond St)-Q24-Hyde Park
Corner ; (Holborn)-Russell Sq-W33-X33-Y33 ; (R25)-Q25 ; (Waterloo N)-W'loo Sth
14 -1(P) = 13

BAKERLOO (J38)-J39-Borough-041-Cannon St ; (M40)-London Bridge ; (Embankment)-W'minster
(Angel)-X38-W38-W40-Old St ;
14-2(P)-6 = 6

Standings : BAKERLOO 141 PAEDOPHILE 134½ SANDS 131 MIND THE GAP 63 STROVER EATS 32

Runs for Round 8 (Enter up to 5 and Runs 6 & 9, Build up to 11 physical pts)

Run 10 : 4H(Royal Oak/Warwick Ave) - 10H(Queens Park/Kilburn/Kensal Grn)

Run 11 : JH(Willesden Grn) - 3S(Victoria)

Run 12 : 7D(Old Street/Moorgate) - 4C(Holborn/Russell Square)

Run 13 : 9H(West Hampstead/Kilburn) - 3D(Chancery Lane/Aldwych/Temple)
Run 14 : 10S(Barons Court/West Kensington) - 6D(Mansion Hse/Bank/Monument/Cannon St)
Run 15 : 8S(Gloucester Road/South Kensington) - 5C(Kings X/St Pancras)
Run 16 : 4S(Marble Arch/Hyde Park Corner) - 7D(Waterloo)
Run 17 : 7H(Belsize Park/Chalk Farm) - AD(Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square)
Run 18 : 2C(Euston Sq/Warren St) - JS(Kensington Olympia/Holland Park)

The great days of Nixon will never return

Lowlife(G53), Somewhat Demiurgic Diplomacy(91?? rh03), Spring 1900

Austria - Andy Bell, 71 Angle Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland. TS4 2HZ

England - Trevor Peacock, 65 Fitzwilliam Street, Wath-upon-Deane. Rotherham S63 7HG

France - Dave Hicks, Top Flat, 8 Dyfrig Street, Pontcanna, Cardiff. CF1 9LR

Germany - David Briggs, 9 Parkinson Avenue, Scunthorpe, South Humberside.

Italy - Harry Bond, 11 Rutland Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. Staffs.

Russia - Robin ap Cynan, The Store Barn, Church Street, Madeley, Telford. Salop.

Turkey - James Nelson, 112 Huntley Avenue, Spondon, Derby. DE2 7DU

The Proposals

OOA - Free Range, Home Laid

The initial placement of units may be made in any home territory, not just supply centres

OOB - Good Technology ?

Each country may build Missiles(M) instead of conventional units. Missiles are ordered Mxxx - yyy. They render that province impassable for the rest of the game, they destroy any unit within that provinces, attempting entry it or leaving. Each country also has a Star Wars shield each turn to protect a specific supply centre, 2/3 chance of this protection being successful.

OOC - Spin the Chair, Magnus

Each autumn turn, each surviving player shall ask a question of general knowledge. If it is not answered successfully, the player who set it gains a supply centre. If it is, they player or players share a supply centre between them. These supply centres add to the general total but do not increase the victory conditions. the GM shall randomly decide the order of Masterminds.

OO-D I think that you ought to know that I'm very depressed

Each season, one of the power's units (randomly chosen) has a fit of depression. If this unit was ordered to move or support, it holds, if ordered to hold, it is dislodged if attacked by an enemy unit of any strength(exception : beleaguered garrison). Powers with one unit are exempt.

OO-E Down with Plagiarism

In the interests of original play, any rule change proposal submitted which would have identical effects to those resulting from a rule change proposal passed in any other British postal game of this variant is automatically vetoed, with no need for a vote.

OO-F Socrates was particularly pissed

All conflicts are resolved by philosophical debate between units. The support order is no longer valid and each turn players must submit philosophical arguments for each unit which will be involved in combat. No argument, no strength.

OO-G Suicide is painless

A unit may make an unsupported attack which is guaranteed to succeed. The unit attacked must retreat or be destroyed, the unit making the attack is automatically destroyed after the attack. Units ordered to move into an area that is subject to a suicide attack are stood off regardless of support. Suicide attacks cannot be conducted against vacant areas. Only One suicide attack is allowed per player per year. Suicide attacks may not be ordered against one's own units. The order for a suicide attack is K for Kamikaze.

Justinian Rhinotmetus : Right, for next season I require the following : Votes on the proposals. i) A simple YES or NO to each proposal AND ii) A preference list of the proposals from most favoured to least favoured.

I will also require the following conditional build orders in the vent of 00-A, 00-B and 00-A and 00-B being passed. Should 00-E be passed, 1900 proposals will be immune to it, also, the player who suggested it must come up with the canonical list of such for ditribution to the other players before Spring 1901, this list will not be added to. If such as list is not forthcoming, then the proposal falls void.

Trevor, I will endeavour get you the rulebook before the next deadline.

I know I'm going to regret this game, I just know I'm going to regret this game, I really
 Kidderminster(G45), Railway Rivals - LU, Round 5

Errata : CUNNILINGUS gains 3 for the Angel and TAE's 4c should have been A60-Z121

CUNNILINGUS, Denis Jones, Black 91 +3+3+3+3+3+2(CE)+3 = 111

A)(Lambeth Nth)-J38-Elephant & Castle-Kennington-Oval

b)(F85)-Drayton Park-H85-Arsenal

C)(S25)-Gt Portland Street ; (S20)-Marylebone ;

CENTRAL, Robin ap Cynan, Red 79 +3+3+3+3(T)-2(CU) = 89

A)(Y12)-Kilburn Park ; (Vauxhall)-E32 ; (I8)-Kensington Olmypia ; (F13)-D14-B13-Fulham ;

B)(E32)-E34-F35-F36-H37

C)(H37)-H38-K39

TAE James Thorpe, Blue 51 +3+3+3+3+3-3(CE) = 63

A)(A60)-A59-B59 ; (Z11)-Z9-Queen's Park ; (A61)-C60-West Hampstead ;

B)(B66)-Swiss Cottage-Finchley Road ; (C74)-Kentish Town ;

C)(K27)-T26-Victoria(nth) ;

LOST, Iain Smedley, Green 47 =47

A)(Mansion House)-O39 ; (Liverpool St)-Q45-Aldgate ; (P23)-Q23-R23 ;

B)(O39)-N39

C)(N39)-N36

Justinian : Sorry that's 50 for LOST. Don't forget 7 rounds, don't forget 60° turns.

Rolls for Round 6 : 6-2-3

Icknield Port Road(G43) - Railway Rivals - SV, Round 8

NMR : BORK (-10pts)

Erratum : Finally cleared up here, the RID ME track is H14-G14-F14-F13-E13-Malmö

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Tot
SDJR		12		7		25	20	12		76
BORK	30		13			+3	6	20		62
RID ME		18	16	23	5	+2				74
VOLVO			1		25		+4	-2		28

Builds : RID ME (Borlange)-R56-Q56-P56-O56-Hagfords ; (D13)-Ystad 12-1(S) = 11

SDJR : (D48)-G47 ; (G60)-F60-E60-D60-C60-B60-Norrköping 12+16(V) = 28 + (K) = 29

VOLVO : (G60)-F60-E60-D60-C60-B60-Motala ; (C56)-Falköping 12-15(S) = +3

Scores : SDJR 152 BORK 142 RID ME 122 VOLVO 22

Enter Race 9 and 5 mopre, build up to 10 physical points

Race 10 : 2S Nässjö - 4D Stockholm N	Race 11 : QC Norrtälje - 5H Strömstad
Race 12 : 8C Hagfors - 7H Mariestad	Race 13 : 6H Vänersborg - KD Gotland
Race 14 : 6S Karlskrona - AC Finland	Race 15 : 6D Stockholm S - 2C Sarna
Race 16 : JC Uppsala - 9S Hälsingborg	Race 17 : 4S Vaxjo - KS Öland
Race 18 : 6C Gävle - QH Borås	

Life is a cabaret, old chum

Aberafan(G52), Snowball Fighting, Turn 3

NMD's : Arnold Rimmer, Fenris

Well an unusual situation at the York Snow Fight Arena, both the Edinburgh participants are stood stock-still probably watching the Tour de France, but the rest of the peleton continues to i-ttle it out.

Right, both the figures in Black, the faceless Mouth of Sauron and Eric of Marylebone sidle to within range of each other, Uncle Sam hurls a Rogerson Rattlesnake at Eric as he departs landing on the helm of the warrior.

Thence encouraged by the success of that, he tries a Bowen Bolero, one winging at the albino again and hitting, whilst the other totally misses the Winter wolf. Eric collects snow, whilst the Mouth selects a hapless Arnold Rimmer for his Rattlesnake, it hits.

Not having signed any treaties between Mordor and the USA, both the Mouth and Uncle Sam try to collect the biggest, bestest dirigible in sight whilst Eric aims a Rattler at the Mouth, but the evil sorcery of the Mouth deflects the snowball and in his rush to get it out of the way, the albino nearly falls over.

FENRIS	Pete Strover	no balls	6HP	1VP	H6
MOUTH OF SAURON	Mark Nelson	1 St, 1 di	5HP	2VP	E5
ERIC OF MARYLEBONE	Doug Rowling	2 simple	7HP	3VP	E7
ARNOLD RIMMER	Alex Zbyslaw	2 simple	8HP	3VP	G3
UNCLE SAM	Pete Gaughan	1 dir	10HP	5VP	L6

Someone has a query : You can chicken out in the kitchen, you may not go into the Shed as in there lives the dreaded ShedMionster !! He eats Snow Fighters.

Eric-Fenris : Book, four words. Is it - Burns, the complete works ?

Uncle Sam - GM : You're a Bozo.

Eric, Truth Seeker of Marylebone : Heads for the Isle of Dogs where the People are pressed on Sundays. Perhaps the Mouth of Sauron is a Grauniad typo and is really the Mouth of the Sun, said by many sages to be a servant of the evil Papa "Murdoc". Eric swears to cleanse the world of this blemish with the power of Snow, perhaps the Times will tell.

And up to a point, lord Copper, must signify that it is the end of the zine. So to bow out with a review of the newest of new zine Garbage In, Garbage Out by Duncan Proffitt (for the address see the Hobbisleaze section). Well, he brought it out on time, which is about the only good point in its favour. It was frankly, rather dull, several pages of games rules, a diary page in a what looked like Carolingian miniscule, a not so "funny" piece and the breaking of his first promise. Duncan wasn't going to swear, well, Duncan, arse, or as Danny the Nanny would put it a*** isn't very polite. The price has been reduced to 50p plus postage, there are massively ambitious waiting lists and it looks and feels like a latter day Yer Iiz. Looks and feels, eh, Kenders could sue.

Mind you the sort of nitwit who uses Corel Draw to produce the text of a zine can't get much worse I suppose, he only used 6 fonts per page and only 9 in total. Only another 146 to go Buy Word for Windows, Proffitt.

Well, actually don't buy Word for Windows, if you have to have bloody Windows 3, then buy Samna Ami Professional even if it is putting money in the pockets of the scum at Lotus Corp. Whatever you do, don't buy Lotus 1-2-3, buy Wingz or Excel and dBase is right out

AQUINAS 1001 AD

Errata : Alexandria,+3,T,EAR,F1 is Abbasid
 Crimea, TUR/TPAG, -1,F1,T is Byzantine
 Sweden -2, Volhynia -1, Pomerania -3, Livonia -3

Chronologia

1001 : Many Battles across Europe : Moroccan mercenaries defeated in the Algarve swamps but Fruela's army cannot get back in time for the fall of Toledo. Ioannes starts re-education campaign in Hungary, Otto II slain at Madgeburg, Petchenegs start raiding Greek cities in Crimea.

1002 : Suleiman leads his troops into burning Lisboa, Wilfred defeats French chivalry at Bordeaux. Greeks smash Petcheneg resistance at Cherson. Polish emisaries subvert Prague nobles.

1003 : Granadese fleet turned back at Porto, Wilfred enters Pamplona, Paulicians slain at Budapest, Aethelred starts campaign against Norway.

1004 : St Iago saves Leon, Wilfred's knights turned back at Bilbao as Cordovan army is defeated outside the walls of Compostela. Petchenegs finally gain control of Crimean Isthmus.

1005 : Norwegian nobles led by Sweyn change sides at Battle of Trondheim, Aethelred proclaimed sea-king. Basil Bulgarokontos restores Metropolitan of Budapest and drives Paulicians into Transylvania. Massive French army falls upon Wilfrid at Cahors, Bordeaux falls as Wilfred has to fall back into the Basque lands. Plagues in Essen and Duisberg. Massive famine in Balkans due to Basil's 'slash & burn' campaign. French harvest fails due to shortage of peasants. Excellent fishing in Northern seas.

In Anno Domine 1001

Abb : Send 10g to 'al-Andalus	
Rule Syria, eff 4	F/Syria 0
And : TAX for 8g	
Conquer Portugal from Morocco,+6g,eff 2	F/Morocco +1
Bar : Selects Aragon as Court area. TAX for 5g	
Conquer Castille ex Aragon, eff 7	S/Castille -1,U,Cq
Byz : Conquer Hungary ex Wallachia,+1g,eff 4	S/Hun,Cq,-3,U BSS -1
Fra : No Order	
Ger : Send 10g to Russia	
Conquer Brandenburg ex Franconia,+8g,eff -1	F/Franconia +2
	LC : Otto III 6-4-2
Ita : Tax for 7g, Verona into Unrest	
Fortify Austria,+2g,eff 0	NE
Leo : Defend Portugal, +5g	
Nth : Rule Scotland,+1g,eff 2	NE/UR
Pol : TAX for 2g	
Defend Brandenburg,+10g	
Pet : Conquer Crimea from Steppes, eff 5	F/Steppes -3
Rus : TAX for 6g	
Rule Volhynia,+1g,eff 1	S/Volhynia 0
Wsx : No Order	

In Anno Domine 1002

Abb : Rule Syria, eff 5	S/Syria +1
And : Conq Portugal ex Granada,+6g,eff 2	S/Portugal,-2,Cq,U,F1 dest
Bar : Defend Aquitaine	
Byz : Reli Conq Hung ex Wallachia,eff 3	NE
Fra : Pillage Aquitaine ex Anjou, eff -6	F/Anjou -1
	LC : Hugh Capet 4-4-2
Ger : Rule Bavaria, eff 3	F/Bavaria 0
Ita : Rule Venice, eff 2	NE
Leo : Defend Portugal,+5g	Court to Leon
Nth : Rule Mercia,+3g,eff 2	S/NE Mer @ max
Pet : Conquer Crimea from Steppes, eff 4	F/Steppes 0 min

Pol : Diplome with Bohemia, +10g, eff 17!
Rus : Diplome with Pomerania, eff 0
Wsx : No Order

In Anno Domine 1003

Abb : Rule Syria, eff 4
And : Conquer Leon from Granada, +6g, eff 1
Bar : Conquer Navarre ex Aragon, eff 7
Byz : Reli Conq of Hungary ex Wallachia, eff 3
Fra : Rule Burgundy, eff 0
Ger : Rule Swabia, eff 2
Ita : Rule Venice, eff 2
Leo : Defend Leon, +5g
Nth : Conq Nwy from Nth, +2g, Eff 3
Pet : Conq Crimea from Steppes, Eff 4
Pol : Diplome with Silesia, +10g, Eff 17
Rus : Conquer Poland ex Volhynia, +10g, eff 12
Wsx : No Order

In Anno Domine 1004

Abb : TAX for 9g
Rule Syria, eff 4
And : Conquer Leon from Cordova, +6g, eff 1
Bar : Conquer Leon ex Castille, eff -2
Byz : Conq Hungary ex Wallachia, eff 3
Fra : No Order
Ger : Rule Bavaria, eff 4
Ita : Fortify Lombardy, eff 10
Leo : Defend Leon, +3g
Nth : Conq Norway ex Northumbria, +3g, eff 3
Pet : Conq Wallachia ex Crimea, eff 3
Pol : Rule Poland, eff 3
Rus : Rule Pomerania, +4g, eff 1
Wsx : No Order

In Anno Domine 1005

Abb : Rule Jerusalem, eff 3
And : No Order
Bar : Defend Aquitaine
Byz : Reli Conq Hun ex Wallachia, eff 5
TAX for 10g
Fra : TAX for 13 g Burgundy & Anjou into Unrest.
Plunder Switzerland = 2g, Swi -1, Unrest
Conquer Aquitaine from Toulouse, +12g, eff 9
Ger : TAX for 8g, Franconia into unrest
Rule Franconia, eff 2
Ita : Rule Venice, eff 2
Leo : TAX for 1g
No Order
Nth : Tax for 7g
Conquer Nwy ex Northumbria, +4g, eff 3
Pol : Rule Brandenburg, eff 1
Pet : Conquer Wallachia ex Crimea, eff 3
Rus : Rule Volhynia, eff 2
Wsx : No Order

S/Dip Cq but disconnected
NE
LC : Owain but 14yr REGENCY of
Anwen (3-2-3)

NE
F/Granada 0
S/Navarre -2, Cq, U
S/CHP 4 EO 4 +1PVP Hungary R
NE/UR
NE/UR
NE

F/Nth +1
S/Crimea -1, F1 dest, U, Cq
S/Tie gained
F!/Vol -1, WA lost

S/Syria +2 but adv dies
F/Cordova -1
NE
S/Hungary, Cq, -3, U but
LC : Basil II 8-6-1

S/Bavaria +1
S/Lombardy to F3

F/Northumbria 0
F/Crimea -3
S/Poland +2
NE/UR

F/Jerusalem -1

S/ @ min, now EO, CHP 3 Rebels

S/Aquitaine +1, F2 dest, Cq, U

F/Franconia +1
NE

S/Nwy, +1, Cq, U
S/Brandenburg -2
F/Cri @ min
S/Volhynia 0

1. No Magnate, No Raider
2. Hold Cards : And, Bar, Byz, Leo, Pol & Wsx get a secret card.
 Germans draw an Epidemic, Lorraine to +2
 YoP in BAL - Swe -1, Fin -2, Liv -2, Pru -1, Pom -2
 YoF in Hungary - Ser Pop -1, Mac 0, Pol +1, Vol -1
 YoP in NTH - Frie +2, Northumb +1, Scotland 0, Orkneys +1
 YoP in the Steppes - Steppes -2, Kiev +1, Crim -2, Khaz +1, Astrakhan -2
 YoF in Champagne - Cha +2, Fla +3, Lor +1, Nor +1, Ile +2, Bur +2
3. Autocols : Bra to OS in 1095 ; Arc to ESL in 1150
4. Colonizations :
 In decline : Bri 15% AS ; Swi 17% LoC ; Aze 9% Syr
 On Going : Gizeh 33% SYR ; Georgia now HEL (+5VP) ; Khazaria 22% HEL ;
 Brittany 55% LoI ; Provence 88/150 NIt ; Karelia 79% ESL ;
 Baleres 28% IBE ;
5. Gold
 Abb : 34 ; And 7 ; Bar 9 ; Byz 40 ; Fra 37 ; Ger 9 ; Ita 10 ; Leo 1 ; Nth 54 ; Pol 11 ; Rus 16 ; Wsx 12

Answers to Queries

Historical claims are allowed to areas that have changed their religion, this claim is maintained until sold, transferred, discarded or an LDH card comes along. These claims are 'titular' and retain no diplomatic significance until the area is reconverted back to the claimants religion.

Three binding treaties were submitted this turn but not of them matched sufficiently to allow them to go forward.

Desert raiders are checked for every pentade and occur on a '6', they remain in action until they gain a '5' Leader Check.

The Seljuk's et al are currently being tidied up and clarified and should reach you soon after you get this.

The desert raiders will be EAr/MSK

A tie may be obtained at any time whilst religiously converting.

Fortification Advance allows the player who has it or a copy of it to build F4's, they are the only ones who may do this. When the card runs out, all players may do this. If there are already F4's, then the player may create F5's and so on.

RULE ADDITION : F4's and greater may only be placed in Court areas or areas of Pop GTE 0 and BSS GTE 0 for F4's, Pop GTE 1 and BSS GTE 1 for F5's and so on. If these conditions are not met due to area decline, then they cost n-3 gold to maintain where n is the F number of the fort.

Creation of new states by players is limited to Religious Orders/Crusader States or the Use of 1-2 Wildcards, consult your GM

Commentarium

A few players have suffered No Orders this turn for several reasons, either their orders ran out or they tried to be too clever. I will not make any decisions for you, nor will I interpret badly written orders.

Kindly all note the following, PLUNDER is a taxation phase action. Languages may only be changed by colonization which is not done with a year card but by declaration at end of pentade. Saying 'tax for max' and then whinging when I tax areas of RV 8 is pathetic. Saying spend n gold, means that and I deduct the endeavour cost from the amount spent. Saying @ eff n, means I will spend gold to get you to eff n. Saying play Dynastic Inheritance without qualifiers of on what or where means that the card is wasted.

Press : Suleiman - Christian & Moslem Spaniards : We be a goodly company, I wonder what the fishes and crows will make of us before this snow melts.

Bar - World : Between a rock and a hard place and ... another hard place.

Chesterfield (G46). Diplomacy (87EH). Fall 1910

Denmark falls — Albanians sleep

FRANCE (Iain Bowen, 5 Wigginton Terrace, YORK, North Yorks., YO3 7JD.) :

F(ADR) S F(ION)-Alb, F(ION)-Alb, F(IRI) S F(MAO)-NAO,
F(MAO)-NAO, F(Lon)-NTH, A(Kie) S A(Den), A(Tri)-Vie,
A(Tyr) S A(Tri)-Vie, A(Mun)-Boh, A(Den) stands, F(TYS)-ION,
F(Lpl) S F(MAO)-NAO, A(Ruh) S A(Bur)-Mun, A(Bur)-Mun,
F(Bre)-ENG, A(Par)-Bur, A(Mar)-Pie.

ITALY (Keith Pottage, 37 High Street, South Hiendley, BARNSELY, South Yorks., S72 9AE.) :

NMR! A(Alb)* stands unordered.

RUSSIA (Nick Kinzett, 11 Daleway Road, Green Lane, COVENTRY, West Mids., CV3 5JF.) :

A(Swe)-Den, A(Edi)-Yor, F(NWG)-NTH, A(Sil) S A(Pru)-Ber,
A(Ser) S A(Gre), A(Rum) S A(Ser), A(Bud) S A(Gal)-Vie,
A(Gre) S A(Ser), F(Smy)-AEG, A(Con)-Bul, A(Ber)-Kie,
A(Gal)-Vie, A(Pru)-Ber, F(SKA) S A(Swe)-Den, F(BLA)-Con,
F(StPSc)-GOB.

RETREATS : ITALIAN A(Alb) disbands, no retreat ordered.

FRENCH A(Den) disbands, no retreat possible.

GENEVA : *Fall 1911 moves, retreats & adjustments to Peter Sullivan, 16 Neile Close, Romanby, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorks., DL7 8NN. Telephone (0609) 777074.*

↓ + → ↑ ↓ + → ↑ ↓ + → ↑ ↓ + → ↑ ↓ + → ↑ ↓ + → ↑ ↓ + → ↑ ↓ + → ↑ ↓

Can't think of anything original to put here, so I shall just have to resort to sloth :



"Oh, hell! Are you sure? I was hoping we were Lust."

VE VERI VENI VERNIVERSUM VIVUS VICI
Arnold Xerxes Lobster M Phil(Const)

It was a pleasing sojourn at Castello Gandolfo, tempered only by an invasion of Cardinals who wished to debate liberation theology at the place. I had warned John-Paul that I did not want to be disturbed but as usual he showed no sign of listening. Never mind, the Romish ne'er-do-well's made a merry bonfire and the attempts by a group of vagabonds called carabineri to succor them only provided Walkerdine with practice for his new T72 tank. The Polish paisan has complained about damage, but I think that the mortar emplacement and slit trenches add to the period charm of the place.

Of course, the upshot of the Gulf War meant that the Lobster estate was able to get, extremely cheaply, some armaments left over by the Iraqi insurgents. This has pleased the peasantry no end as they prepare to ward off the poll tax collectors for the second time. A small number of mines have been laid in Sullivan's Bottom and the St Piggott Minor Road has an excellent collection of tank traps. There is only one minor problem in that neither QueegQueeg nor Walkerdine can identify the substance in the yellow canisters. They appear to be of a gaseous matter and are marked 'IRAQI POWDERED MILK', which they are certainly not. Walkerdine, ever the practical man, suggests trying them out on the caravan park, whatever one of those may be, at Treproffit.

I note with some sadness, that the group of motley persons that call themselves the 'hobby' are about to descend upon Birmingham again for the cataclysm usually referred to as ManorCon. It is being held at a Hall of Residence, which QueegQueeg informs me is a hostel for students, not unlike the old Bethlehem hospital. My personal feelings give the quality of the folk going is that the convention should be held upon a transport hulk to Van Diemen's Land or if it must be held in the noxious hole of Birmingham, then surely the Birmingham gaol would be more suitable as most of the attenders are ticket of leave men from the gaols anyway.

I am informed, via the method of the chauffeur's Telegraph, that the people of Slovenia are in rebellion against their Serbian masters. Well, good luck to them, the Serbs are a despicable group of mountain bandits, ridden with treachery and vile practices who only ever produced one statesman of any quality. Of course, Dushan would have never interfered with the Slovene peoples but would have menaced the Greeks. Hopefully soon, the Slovenes will be re-encompassed back into the noole institution of the Holy Roman Empire.

As I mention the Telegraph which is a most suitable newspaper for the better quality of servant such as QueegQueeg or Pastor Hollig our new Anglican priest, there still appears to be nothing suitable for the gentlemanly classes since the Vatican, God and the Emperor rot it, stopped producing their daily in Latin. I am organising a petition to the Almanack de Gotha, a most valuable source of information, that they should start at least a weekly broadsheet to deal with the affairs of the cultured classes.

*"Haec studia adolescentiam alunt,
Senectutem oblectant, secundas res ornant,
adversis perfugium ac solatium praebent,
delectant domi, non impediunt foris,
pernoctant nobiscum, peregrinatur, rustificantur*
Cicero

Right, that's another issue over and done with and with a shorter turnaround than last time and a tad more content. In case anyone is interested, I've slowed up the zine so that I don't fold it ! This may seem illogical but the damn thing was becoming a chore and I was starting to struggle to adjudicate, hopefully, the less rigid deadline schedule for me will let me get on with life outside the hobby a little more. I'm also still running the game-starts down on this front until I'm running a few less games again.

European subscribers should note that French, Irish, Belgian, Dutch & German bank notes are perfectly acceptable for subscriptions.

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